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12 March 1952

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SE-23: Prospects for An Inclusive Middle East  
Command Organization

1. This estimate was prepared on an urgent basis at the request of the NSC for use in preparation of a policy paper on the Middle East.
2. The estimate was originally designed merely to estimate the prospects for the establishment of an inclusive Middle East Command organization. The scope was broadened, after receipt of State's contribution, as a result of further consultation with the NSC, which indicated its desire for an estimate on:
- a. the type of Middle East defense organization that could be expected to emerge from a settlement of the Anglo-Egyptian controversy;
  - b. the usefulness of such an organization in furthering Western policies in the Near East.
3. No major substantive differences of opinion arose during the IAC representatives meeting on 12 March. State expressed some concern over the enlargement of the scope of the paper. [O-2 may wish to include an additional statement to the effect that any significant strengthening of Near East defenses against Soviet aggression will, in the last analysis, depend upon the extent to which the West commits resources to the area.] The Board and the other agency representatives felt that this conclusion was beyond the scope of this paper.

SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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Addressee

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